

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY TEXT AS RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE

APPROVED BY S/S-O: GEORGE TWOHIE

EUR: WELLS STABLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 066651

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON POMPIDOU

FOLLOWING IS PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE WHITE HOUSE:

QTE

IN THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU, FRANCE HAS
LOST ONE OF HER GREAT LEADERS AND THE WORLD HAS LOST
A GREAT STATESMAN.

MY PROFOUND PERSONAL REGRET IS DEEPENED BY THE FACT
THAT PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT UPON
ACCEDING TO OFFICE WAS TO THE UNITED STATES. ON THAT
OCCASION AND IN MY OTHER MEETINGS WITH HIM, I FOUND
HIM TO BE A MAN OF VISION, CONSTRAINT, CONSISTENCY,
AND ENORMOUS STRENGTH OF CHARACTER. HE CAME FROM THE
AUVERGNE, THE HEART OF FRANCE, AND HE REFLECTED ALL THE
SPIRIT AND STRENGTH OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE.

IT WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS COURAGE THAT DESPITE HIS
ILLNESS, HE DID NOT FALTER IN HIS SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE,
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NOR TO THE PURPOSES OF WORLD PEACE.

THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA JOIN ME IN EXTENDING OUR

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE.

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